

AN ACT

RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE; ENACTING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR JUVENILES; REPEALING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

The Interstate Compact for Juveniles is enacted into law and entered into on behalf of New Mexico with any and all other states legally joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

THE INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR JUVENILES

ARTICLE I — Purpose

A. The compacting states to this interstate compact recognize that each state is responsible for the proper supervision or return of juveniles, delinquents and status offenders who are on probation or parole and who have absconded, escaped or run away from supervision and control and in doing so have endangered their own safety and the safety of others. The compacting states also recognize that each state is responsible for the safe return of juveniles who have run away from home and in doing so have left their state of residence. The compacting states also recognize that congress, by enacting the Crime Control Act, 4 U.S.C. Section 112 (1965), has authorized and encouraged compacts for cooperative efforts and mutual assistance in the prevention of crime.

B. It is the purpose of this compact, through means of joint and cooperative action among the compacting states, to:

(1) ensure that the adjudicated juveniles and status offenders subject to this compact are provided adequate supervision and services in the

receiving state as ordered by the adjudicating judge or parole authority in the sending state;

(2) ensure that the public safety interests of the citizens, including the victims of juvenile offenders, in both the sending and receiving states are adequately protected;

(3) return juveniles who have run away, absconded or escaped from supervision or control or have been accused of an offense to the state requesting their return;

(4) make contracts for the cooperative institutionalization in public facilities in member states for delinquent youth needing special services;

(5) provide for the effective tracking and supervision of juveniles;

(6) equitably allocate the costs, benefits and obligations of the compacting states;

(7) establish procedures to manage the movement between states of juvenile offenders released to the community under the jurisdiction of courts, juvenile departments or any other criminal or juvenile justice agency that has jurisdiction over juvenile offenders;

(8) ensure immediate notice to jurisdictions where defined offenders are authorized to travel or to relocate across state lines;

(9) establish procedures to resolve pending charges against juvenile offenders prior to transfer or release to the community under the terms of this compact;

(10) establish a system of uniform data collection on

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information pertaining to juveniles subject to this compact that allows access by authorized juvenile justice and criminal justice officials, and regular reporting of compact activities to heads of state executive, judicial and legislative branches and juvenile and criminal justice administrators;

(11) monitor compliance with rules governing interstate movement of juveniles and initiate interventions to address and correct noncompliance;

(12) coordinate training and education regarding the regulation of interstate movement of juveniles for officials involved in that activity; and

(13) coordinate the implementation and operation of the compact with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and other compacts affecting juveniles, particularly in those cases where concurrent or overlapping supervision issues arise.

C. It is the policy of the compacting states that the activities conducted by the interstate commission created herein are the formation of public policies and therefore are public business. Furthermore, the compacting states shall cooperate and observe their individual and collective duties and responsibilities for the prompt return and acceptance of juveniles subject to the provisions of this compact.

D. The provisions of this compact shall be reasonably and liberally construed to accomplish the purposes and policies of the compact.

ARTICLE II — Definitions

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different construction:

A. "bylaws" means those bylaws established by the interstate commission for its governance or for directing or controlling its actions or conduct;

B. "commissioner" means the voting representative of each compacting state appointed pursuant to Article III of this compact;

C. "compact administrator" means the individual in each compacting state appointed pursuant to the terms of this compact, responsible for the administration and management of the state's supervision and transfer of juveniles subject to the terms of this compact, the rules adopted by the interstate commission and policies adopted by the state council under this compact;

D. "compacting state" means any state that has enacted the enabling legislation for this compact;

E. "court" means any court having jurisdiction over delinquent, neglected or dependent children;

F. "deputy compact administrator" means the individual, if any, in each compacting state appointed to act on behalf of a compact administrator pursuant to the terms of this compact and who is responsible for the administration and management of the state's supervision and transfer of juveniles subject to the terms of this compact, the rules adopted by the interstate commission and the policies adopted by the state council under this compact;

G. "interstate commission" means the interstate commission for juveniles created by Article III of this compact;

H. "juvenile" means a person defined as a juvenile in any member state or by the rules of the interstate commission, including:

(1) an accused delinquent, who is a person charged with an offense that, if committed by an adult, would be a criminal offense;

(2) an adjudicated delinquent, who is a person found to have

committed an offense that, if committed by an adult, would be a criminal offense;

(3) an accused status offender, who is a person charged with an offense that would not be a criminal offense if committed by an adult;

(4) an adjudicated status offender, who is a person found to have committed an offense that would not be a criminal offense if committed by an adult; and

(5) a non-offender, who is a person in need of supervision who has not been accused or adjudicated as a status offender or delinquent;

I. "noncompacting state" means any state that has not enacted the enabling legislation for this compact;

J. "probation or parole" means any kind of supervision or conditional release of juveniles authorized under the laws of the compacting states;

K. "rule" means a written statement by the interstate commission promulgated pursuant to Article VI of this compact that is of general applicability, that implements, interprets or prescribes a policy or provision of the compact or an organizational, procedural or practice requirement of the commission, and that has the force and effect of statutory law in a compacting state. "Rule" includes the amendment, repeal or suspension of an existing rule; and

L. "state" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Marianas Islands.

ARTICLE III — Interstate Commission for Juveniles

A. The compacting states hereby create the "interstate commission for juveniles". The commission shall be a body corporate and joint agency of the

compacting states. The commission shall have all the responsibilities, powers and duties set forth herein, and additional powers as may be conferred upon it by subsequent action of the respective legislatures of the compacting states in accordance with the terms of this compact.

B. The interstate commission shall consist of commissioners appointed by the appropriate appointing authority in each state pursuant to the rules and requirements of each compacting state and in consultation with the "state council for interstate juvenile supervision" created hereunder. The commissioner shall be the compact administrator, deputy compact administrator or designee from that state who shall serve on the interstate commission in such capacity under or pursuant to the applicable law of the compacting state.

C. In addition to the commissioners who are the voting representatives of each state, the interstate commission shall include individuals who are not commissioners, but who are members of interested organizations. Noncommissioner members shall include a member of the national organizations of governors, legislators, state chief justices, attorneys general, a member of the interstate compact for adult offender supervision, a member of the interstate compact for the placement of children, juvenile justice and juvenile corrections officials and crime victims. All noncommissioner members of the interstate commission shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members. The interstate commission may provide in its bylaws for additional ex-officio, nonvoting members, including members of other national organizations, in such numbers as shall be determined by the commission.

D. Each compacting state represented at any meeting of the interstate commission is entitled to one vote. A majority of the compacting states shall constitute

a quorum for the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the interstate commission.

E. The interstate commission shall meet at least once each calendar year. The chairperson may call additional meetings and, upon the request of a simple majority of the compacting states, shall call additional meetings. Public notice shall be given of all meetings and meetings shall be open to the public.

F. The interstate commission shall establish an executive committee, which shall include commission officers, members and others as determined by the bylaws. The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the interstate commission during periods when the interstate commission is not in session, with the exception of rulemaking and amendments to the compact. The executive committee shall oversee the day-to-day activities managed by an executive director and interstate commission staff, administer enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the compact, bylaws and rules, and perform other duties as directed by the interstate commission or set forth in the bylaws.

G. Each member of the interstate commission shall have the right and power to cast a vote to which that compacting state is entitled and to participate in the business and affairs of the interstate commission. A member shall vote in person and shall not delegate a vote to another compacting state. However, a commissioner, in consultation with the state council, shall appoint another authorized representative, in the absence of the commissioner from that state, to cast a vote on behalf of the compacting state at a specified meeting. The bylaws may provide for members' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of telecommunication or electronic communication.

H. The interstate commission's bylaws shall establish conditions and procedures under which the interstate commission shall make its information and official records available to the public for inspection or copying. The interstate commission may exempt from disclosure any information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect personal privacy rights or proprietary interests.

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I. Public notice shall be given of all meetings and all meetings shall be open to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in the compact. The interstate commission and any of its committees may close a meeting to the public when a determination is made by a two-thirds' vote that an open meeting would be likely to:

- (1) relate solely to the interstate commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
- (2) disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;
- (3) disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
- (4) involve accusing a person of a crime or formally censuring a person;
- (5) disclose information of a personal nature when disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (6) disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;
- (7) disclose information contained in or related to examination reports, operating reports or condition reports prepared by, prepared on behalf of or

prepared for the use of the interstate commission with respect to a regulated person or entity for the purpose of regulation or supervision of the person or entity;

(8) disclose information, the premature disclosure of which would significantly endanger the stability of a regulated person or entity; or

(9) specifically relate to the interstate commission's issuance of a subpoena or its participation in a civil action or other legal proceeding.

J. For every meeting closed pursuant to the provisions of Subsection I of this article, the interstate commission's legal counsel shall publicly certify that, in the legal counsel's opinion, the meeting may be closed to the public and shall reference each relevant provision set forth in Subsection I of this article. The interstate commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken and the reasons therefore, including a description of each of the views expressed on an item and the record of a roll call vote. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in the minutes.

K. The interstate commission shall collect standardized data concerning the interstate movement of juveniles, as directed through its rules, which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of collection, data exchange and reporting requirements. The methods of data collection, data exchange and reporting shall, insofar as it is reasonably possible, conform to up-to-date technology and coordinate with information functions used by the appropriate repository of records.

ARTICLE IV -- Powers and Duties of the Interstate Commission

The interstate commission shall:

A. provide for dispute resolution among compacting states;

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- B. promulgate rules to effect the purposes and obligations enumerated in this compact, which shall have the force and effect of statutory law and shall be binding in the compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided in this compact;
- C. oversee, supervise and coordinate the interstate movement of juveniles subject to the terms of this compact and any bylaws adopted and rules promulgated by the interstate commission;
- D. enforce compliance with compact provisions, the rules promulgated by the interstate commission and bylaws, using all necessary and proper means, including the use of judicial process;
- E. establish and maintain offices that shall be located within one or more of the compacting states;
- F. purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
- G. borrow, accept, hire or contract for personnel services;
- H. establish and appoint committees and hire staff that it deems necessary for carrying out its functions, including an executive committee that shall have the power to act on behalf of the interstate commission in carrying out its powers and duties;
- I. elect or appoint officers, attorneys, employees, agents or consultants and to fix their compensation, define their duties and determine their qualifications; and to establish the interstate commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, rates of compensation and qualifications of personnel;
- J. accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services and to receive, utilize and dispose of same;

- K. lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal or mixed;
- L. sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed;
- M. establish a budget and make expenditures and levy dues as provided in Article VIII of this compact;
- N. sue and be sued;
- O. adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and operation of the interstate commission;
- P. perform functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact;
- Q. report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary and state councils of the compacting states concerning the activities of the interstate commission during the preceding year. The reports shall also include recommendations that may have been adopted by the interstate commission;
- R. coordinate education, training and public awareness regarding the interstate movement of juveniles for officials involved in that activity;
- S. establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting and exchanging of data; and
- T. maintain its corporate books and records in accordance with the bylaws.

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ARTICLE V — Organization and Operation of the Interstate Commission

- A. The interstate commission shall, by a majority of the members present and voting, within twelve months after the first interstate commission meeting,

adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact, including:

- (1) establishing the fiscal year of the interstate commission;
- (2) establishing an executive committee and other committees

as may be necessary;

- (3) providing for the establishment of committees governing

general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the interstate commission;

(4) providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the interstate commission and ensuring reasonable notice of those meetings;

(5) establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers of the interstate commission;

(6) providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the interstate commission and the return of surplus funds that may exist upon the termination of the compact after the payment and reserving of all of its debts and obligations;

(7) providing "start-up" rules for initial administration of the compact; and

(8) establishing standards and procedures for compliance and technical assistance in carrying out the compact.

B. The interstate commission shall, by a majority of the members, elect annually from among its members a chairperson and a vice chairperson, each of whom shall have such authority and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The chairperson or, in the chairperson's absence or disability, the vice chairperson shall

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preside at all meetings of the interstate commission. The officers elected shall serve without compensation or remuneration from the interstate commission; provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted funds, the officers shall be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary costs and expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as officers of the interstate commission.

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C. The interstate commission, through its executive committee, shall appoint or retain an executive director, upon terms and conditions and for compensation as the interstate commission may deem appropriate. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the interstate commission, shall not be a member and shall hire and supervise other staff as may be authorized by the interstate commission.

D. The commission's executive director and employees shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, or that the person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that the person shall not be protected from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the person.

E. The liability of any commissioner, or the employee or agent of a commissioner, acting within the scope of the person's employment or duties for acts, errors or omissions occurring within the person's state may not exceed the limits of liability set forth under the constitution and laws of that state for state officials,

employees and agents. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect the person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the person.

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F. The interstate commission shall defend the executive director or the employees or representatives of the interstate commission and, subject to the approval of the attorney general of the state represented by a commissioner of a compacting state, shall defend the commissioner or the commissioner's representatives or employees in a civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the person.

G. The interstate commission shall indemnify and hold the commissioner of a compacting state, the commissioner's representatives or employees or the interstate commission's representatives or employees, harmless in the amount of a settlement or judgment obtained against a person arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of interstate commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the person.

ARTICLE VI — Rulemaking Functions of the Interstate Commission

A. The interstate commission shall promulgate and publish rules in

order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of the compact.

B. Rulemaking shall occur pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article and the bylaws and rules adopted pursuant thereto. Rulemaking shall substantially conform to the principles of the "Model State Administrative Procedures Act", 1981 Act, Uniform Laws Annotated, Vol. 15, p.1 (2000), or other administrative procedures act, as the interstate commission deems appropriate, consistent with due process requirements under the United States constitution as now or hereafter interpreted by the United States supreme court. All rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified, as published with the final version of the rule as approved by the interstate commission.

C. When promulgating a rule, the interstate commission shall, at a minimum:

(1) publish the proposed rule's entire text stating the reasons for that proposed rule;

(2) allow and invite persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which information shall be added to the record and be made publicly available;

(3) provide an opportunity for an informal hearing if petitioned by ten or more persons; and

(4) promulgate a final rule and its effective date, if appropriate, based on input from state or local officials or interested parties.

D. Allow, not later than sixty days after a rule is promulgated, an interested person to file a petition in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or in the federal district court where the interstate commission's principal

office is located for judicial review of the rule. If the court finds that the interstate commission's action is not supported by substantial evidence in the rulemaking record, the court shall hold the rule unlawful and set it aside. For purposes of this subsection, evidence is substantial if it would be considered substantial evidence under the Model State Administrative Procedures Act.

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E. If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states rejects a rule, those states may, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, cause the rule to have no further force and effect in any compacting state.

F. The existing rules governing the operation of the interstate compact on juveniles superseded by this act shall be null and void twelve months after the first meeting of the interstate commission created hereunder.

G. Upon determination by the interstate commission that a state of emergency exists, it may promulgate an emergency rule that shall become effective immediately upon adoption, provided that the usual rule making procedures provided hereunder shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than ninety days after the effective date of the emergency rule.

ARTICLE VII — Oversight, Enforcement and Dispute Resolution by The Interstate
Commission

A. The interstate commission shall oversee the administration and operations of the interstate movement of juveniles subject to this compact in the compacting states and shall monitor activities being administered in noncompacting states that may significantly affect compacting states.

B. The courts and executive agencies in each compacting state shall

enforce this compact and shall take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate
the compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules
promulgated hereunder shall be received by all the judges, public officers,
commissions and departments of the state government as evidence of the authorized
statute and administrative rules. All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and
the rules. In a judicial or administrative proceeding in a compacting state pertaining to
the subject matter of this compact that may affect the powers, responsibilities or
actions of the interstate commission, it shall be entitled to receive all service of process
in the proceeding and shall have standing to intervene in the proceeding for all
purposes.

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C. The compacting states shall report to the interstate commission on all issues and activities necessary for the administration of the compact as well as issues and activities pertaining to compliance with the provisions of the compact and its bylaws and rules.

D. The interstate commission shall attempt, upon the request of a compacting state, to resolve any disputes or other issues that are subject to the compact and that may arise among compacting states and between compacting and noncompacting states. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes between the compacting states.

E. The interstate commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact using any or all means set forth in Article XI of this compact.

ARTICLE VIII — Finance

A. The interstate commission shall pay or provide for the payment of

the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities.

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B. The interstate commission shall levy on and collect an annual assessment from each compacting state to cover the cost of the internal operations and activities of the interstate commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover the interstate commission's annual budget as approved each year.

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The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the interstate commission, taking into consideration the population of each compacting state and the volume of interstate movement of juveniles in each compacting state and shall promulgate a rule binding upon all compacting states that governs the assessment.

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C. The interstate commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the interstate commission pledge the credit of any of the compacting states, except by and with the authority of the compacting state.

D. The interstate commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the interstate commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the interstate commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the interstate commission.

ARTICLE IX — The State Council

Each member state shall create a "state council for interstate juvenile supervision". While each state may determine the membership of its own state council,

its membership must include at least one representative from the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government, victims groups and the compact administrator, deputy compact administrator or designee. Each compacting state retains the right to determine the qualifications of the compact administrator or deputy compact administrator. Each state council will advise and may exercise oversight and advocacy concerning that state's participation in interstate commission activities and other duties as may be determined by that state, including development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within that state.

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ARTICLE X — Compacting States, Effective Date and Amendment

A. Any state is eligible to become a compacting state. The compact shall become effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the compact into law by no less than thirty-five of the states. The initial effective date shall be the later of July 1, 2004 or upon enactment into law by the thirty-fifth jurisdiction. Thereafter, it shall become effective and binding as to any other compacting state upon enactment of the compact into law by that state. The governors of noncompacting states or their designees shall be invited to participate in the activities of the interstate commission on a nonvoting basis prior to adoption of the compact by all states and territories of the United States.

B. The interstate commission may propose amendments to the compact for enactment by the compacting states. An amendment shall not become effective and binding upon the interstate commission and the compacting states unless and until it is enacted into law by unanimous consent of the compacting states.

ARTICLE XI — Withdrawal, Default, Termination and Judicial Enforcement

A. Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and remain

binding upon each and every compacting state; provided that a compacting state may withdraw from the compact by specifically repealing the statute that enacted the compact into law. The effective date of withdrawal is the effective date of the repeal. The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the chairperson of the interstate commission in writing upon the introduction of legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state. The interstate commission shall notify the other compacting states of the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw within sixty days of its receipt thereof. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of withdrawal, including any obligations, the performance of which extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal.

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Reinstatement following withdrawal of a compacting state shall occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting the compact or upon a later date as determined by the interstate commission.

B. If the interstate commission determines that a compacting state has at any time defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, or the bylaws or duly promulgated rules, the interstate commission may impose any or all of the following penalties:

(1) remedial training and technical assistance as directed by the interstate commission;

(2) alternative dispute resolution;

(3) fines, fees and costs in amounts as are deemed to be reasonable as fixed by the interstate commission; and

(4) suspension or termination of membership in the compact, which shall be imposed only after all other reasonable means of securing compliance

under the bylaws and rules have been exhausted and the interstate commission has therefore determined that the offending state is in default. Immediate notice of suspension shall be given by the interstate commission to the governor, the chief justice or the chief judicial officer of the state, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature and the state council.

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C. The grounds for default include failure of a compacting state to perform obligations or responsibilities imposed upon it by this compact, the bylaws or duly promulgated rules and any other grounds designated in commission bylaws and rules. The interstate commission shall immediately notify the defaulting state in writing of the penalty imposed by the interstate commission and of the default pending a cure of the default. The commission shall stipulate the conditions and the time period within which the defaulting state must cure its default. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default within the time period specified by the interstate commission, the defaulting state shall be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the compacting states and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this compact shall be terminated from the effective date of termination.

D. Within sixty days of the effective date of termination of a defaulting state, the interstate commission shall notify the governor, the chief justice or chief judicial officer of the state, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature and the state council of the termination.

E. The defaulting state is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including any obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

F. The interstate commission shall not bear any costs relating to the

defaulting state unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing between the interstate commission and the defaulting state.

G. Reinstatement following termination of a compacting state requires both a reenactment of the compact by the defaulting state and the approval of the interstate commission pursuant to the rules.

H. The interstate commission may, by majority vote of the members, initiate legal action in the United States district court for the District of Columbia or, at the discretion of the interstate commission, in the federal district where the interstate commission has its offices, to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact, its duly promulgated rules and bylaws, against any compacting state in default. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of the litigation, including reasonable attorneys fees.

I. The compact dissolves effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of the compacting state, which reduces membership in the compact to one compacting state.

Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the business and affairs of the interstate commission shall be concluded and any surplus funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

ARTICLE XII — Severability and Construction

A. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision is deemed unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.

B. The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed to

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effectuate its purposes.

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ARTICLE XIII — Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws

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A. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a compacting state that is not inconsistent with this compact. All compacting states' laws other than state constitutions and other interstate compacts conflicting with this compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

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B. All lawful actions of the interstate commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the interstate commission, are binding upon the compacting states.

C. All agreements between the interstate commission and the compacting states are binding in accordance with their terms.

D. Upon the request of a party to a conflict over meaning or interpretation of interstate commission actions, and upon a majority vote of the compacting states, the interstate commission may issue advisory opinions regarding the meaning or interpretation.

E. In the event a provision of this compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of a compacting state, the obligations, duties, powers or jurisdiction sought to be conferred by the provision upon the interstate commission shall be ineffective and the obligations, duties, powers or jurisdiction shall remain in the compacting state and shall be exercised by the agency to which the obligations, duties, powers or jurisdiction are delegated by law in effect at the time this compact becomes effective.

ARTICLE XIV — Repeal

Sections 32A-10-1 through 32A-10-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter

238, Sections 1 through 8, as amended) are repealed.

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